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# Inside Labor

by Victor Riesel



## Leftists Defend Hoffa

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Em-battled Jimmie Hoffa's most loyal legions are on the left flank of the land. It is intriguing that some of the loudest last hurrahs for the man who is still technically the Teamsters' chief come from men who seek dealings with the Chinese Communist government and the Soviet "apparat."

These are men who have been called Communist activists by sworn witnesses in the courts and before congressional committees. These are men who have traveled with world Communist labor leaders across the globe and some of whom have so appreciated by the Russians that they were made honorary members of the Soviet trade union federation.

It is with these men, and their unions, that Jim Hoffa has tied his union in written pacts calling for joint action — industrial and political. It is all on the record. Therefore, their defense of him is understandable. But the lack of curiosity on the part of the Teamsters who have been drawn into these alliances is not quite so comprehensible.

If they, and the public, looked closely they would discover that one of the most active of those raising defense funds, distributing literature and speaking in behalf of Hoffa is Harry Bridges, head of the Pacific Coast longshoremen's union. Also active is Bridges' colleague Louis Goldblatt, brilliant strategist and secretary-treasurer of Bridges' longshoremen.

### BRIDGES HELP

Who is Harry Bridges, defender of the faith for Jimmie Hoffa? He is, for example, the man who helped to launch the "All Pacific and Asia Dockworkers Trade Union Conference" in the Orient. It has been meeting regularly in Tokyo. Amongst its resolutions are demands for the abolition of all U.S. military bases in Japan, and charges that there are slave labor conditions in the vital U. S. base in Okinawa.

It is Harry Bridges who is leading the drive for open relations with Peking. It is Harry Bridges who has called for the dispatch of American government delegations to the People's Republic of China to seek its trade and its friend-

This same union has been charged by the Subversive Activities Control Board with being heavily Communist infiltrated.

This has been developing for years. Now the Senate group calls it a "clear and present danger."

This is not a partisan report. It is signed by political leaders of all persuasions in the Senate. Their opinions should not be lost on the public—not even, during these hectic hours in our national political life. What is the "danger"? And to whom?

ship. It is Harry Bridges who was named an honorary member of the Soviet Sea, Rivers and Dock Workers Union.

It is Harry Bridges who was met at the Rome airport by leading members of the Communist World Federation of Trade Unions—once labeled by former CIA chief Allan Dulles as the conduit of money and manpower in the global fight against the U.S.

It is Harry Bridges who is in the advance guard of rank-and-file Communists in America's defense committees for Jim Hoffa.

### ANSWER REFUSED

And who is Bridges' colleague Louis Goldblatt? Part of the answer is in a confrontation between the crusading Sen. McClellan and Mr. Goldblatt on July 10, 1959. The senator asked Goldblatt:

"Now I will ask you if you have in the past, any time in the past since you have been a member of a union, have you been a member of the Communist Party?"

Goldblatt, even then a defender of Hoffa, took the fifth and refused to answer.

Later, Goldblatt was asked if he had written and published a pamphlet which said in part: "We in the U.S. under the leadership of the Communist Party . . . shall overthrow capitalism and build a workers and farmers government—a Soviet America."

Again Goldblatt took the fifth. It is reasonable to inquire about the affinity between such men and the leader of the nation's big motor transport union.

It is germane to point out, too, that the Worker, clarion of the Communists of America, speaks well of Hoffa and champions his cause.

### PUSHED LOAN

Add to all this the fact, long ago reported here and confirmed a few days ago by the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, that Hoffa dug into the Teamsters treasury for \$100,000 as a loan to the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers for defense of some of its leaders who have been convicted on charges of filing false anti-Communist affidavits.